



Dr. Jack Scott

**Study of Acts:
Chapters 6-7**

We're glad you're here!



The appointment of men to serve widows (6:1-6)

- **“Now in those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.” (6:1)**

The appointment of men to serve widows (6:1-6)

- **To solve this problem, the apostles recommended that the church in Jerusalem select “men of good repute, full of the spirit and of wisdom” (6:3) to do this duty.**
- **The men selected were Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch (6:5).**

Actions of Stephen (6:8-7:1)

- **Stephen spoke with power and also did many signs and wonders among the people (6:8).**
- **Many Hellenist Jews disputed with Stephen; however, “they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke” (6:9-10).**

Actions of Stephen (6:8-7:1)

- **They accused Stephen of blasphemy and brought him before the Council. They charged Stephen of stating that Jesus would destroy the temple and that Jesus also had sought to change the customs that Moses had once delivered (6:11-15).**
- **The high priest confronted Stephen: “Is this so?” (7:1).**



Stephen's answer by citing many passages from the Old Testament (7:2-53)

- He first refers to Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation.**
- In Mesopotamia, God first calls Abraham, saying, "Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you" (7:3).**

Stephen's answer by citing many passages from the Old Testament (7:2-53)

- **Stephen then recounts many other acts of faith by Abraham: the covenant of circumcision, the birth of Isaac, the promise of the land of Israel to Abraham's descendants (7:4-8).**
- **In Hebrews 11:10, it is stated that Abraham "looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."**

Stephen's citing of Moses, the great lawmaker (7:20-38)

- He relates the oppression of the Israelites by the Egyptians, the birth of Moses, and his being raised in Pharaoh's court.**
- When Moses kills an Egyptian, who is badly persecuting an Israelite, Stephen adds that Moses "supposed that his brethren understood that God was giving them deliverance by his hand, but they did not understand" (7:25).**

Stephen's citing of Moses, the great lawmaker (7:20-38)

- **Stephen reminds the audience of other events in Moses' life: his call at the burning bush, his leading the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery, his receiving of God's commandments at Mount Sinai, and his leadership of Israel in their forty years of wilderness wandering (7:30-38).**
- **He also cites these words of Moses: "God will also raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up" (7:37).**

Conclusion of Stephen's sermon (7:39-53)

- **Stephen cites the idolatry and sinfulness of the Israelites in the wilderness (7:39-43; Amos 5:25-27).**
- **He questions the veneration of the temple “Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands, as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool’” (7:48-49; Isaiah 66:1).**

Conclusion of Stephen's sermon (7:39-53)

- **“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” (7:51)**
- **“And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered.” (7:52)**

The reaction of the Council to Stephen (7:54-8:1)

- **“Now when they heard these things they were enraged and ground their teeth against him.” (7:54)**
- **They “stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him” (7:57-58).**
- **“The witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And Saul was consenting to his death.” (7:58-8:1)**



Stephen's dying words

- **“And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (7:59)**
- **“And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’” (7:60)**



**Sunday
Mornings
10:00am**

You're always welcome!